

JANUARY, 1896.

# TO THE MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ST. AUSTELL.

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GENTLEMEN,

It is again my duty to present you with the Report and Tables of Mortality and Sickness for the year 1895.

As you will perceive the district has been very healthy during the year, the Zymotic diseases being few, and the Mortality light, only one fatal case. There have been six cases of Scarlatina, none having proved fatal, the first occurring in the end of May in a lodging-house at East Hill, in August two more, in October one, and in November two; these cases occurred in different parts of the district, and the connection between them could not be traced. One fatal case of Diphtheria took place, there being found nothing unsanitary. One case of Erysipelas at Moorland Road in an old and debilitated woman.

Your Authority has taken legal proceedings against a woman at Blowing-house Hill for not reporting cases of Infectious diseases. The woman took in washing, it was a bad case, and done as a warning to others. It is very often in this manner that diseases spread, and also it makes it impossible to detect their origin. A conviction was obtained.

The district has been supplied with a new supply of drinking water, although the reservoir is not as yet quite completed. It has been extended to the higher parts of the district, where the old supply could not reach, and so far has answered satisfactory; and I have no doubt when complete will prove a boon to the inhabitants. I was glad to see that your Authority decided to cover the reservoir, and I hope you will see your way to cover the filtering beds, considering the close proximity to clay stacks I am afraid open ones will not prove satisfactory. This work has been done with considerable cost, the reservoir and filtering beds holding about a million gallons of water. I consider this is the most useful and important work that has ever been accomplished in the district.

The drainage has also been extended at Trenance and Pond-dhu Lane, there are other places that the drainage requires improvement, this in time will be laid before you. The drainage is a very important matter. Next in importance to pure drinking water—but situated as the district is it is a difficult and serious question to approach—however, I hope in due time it will be carefully and gradually brought under your notice.

Several privies have been converted into water closets, notably at Trenance, West Hill, Priory Row, Market Hill, and Carvath. At the former place one landlord has complied without hesitation, but I am sorry to say another in the same place has not as yet complied, although he owns several houses in that neighbourhood. I hope your Authority will compel him to join to the sewer as the others before long.

The streets have been improved, roads widened, and side-paths laid, but there is still room for further improvements. The boundary of the district is badly defined at present, and I am of opinion that it is time it should be revised; and whatever boundary you may decide on, it should be as far as practicable be defined by roads, and not across gardens and parts of houses as existing at present.

Six cases of overcrowding were reported to you during the year, with one exception the nuisance was abated on serving notice; in that instance legal proceedings had to be taken, and a conviction was obtained. The same house was afterwards condemned as unfit for habitation—there being no proper ventilation or closet accommodation—this has since been ventilated and a water closet supplied.

In previous reports I have referred to the want of Bye-Laws. During the past year this has been more forcibly brought under my notice. When your Authority having passed plans for a new house at Grant's Walk, it was granted a certificate of occupation, although there



was not sufficient air space in front or back, also the complaints that had been made about piggeries. As long as they are kept clean we cannot interfere, although within a few feet of a dwelling-house. Close to the chapel gate were reported a stable and cow-shed, without proper drainage, and yet no action could be taken, although at times it has been complained about. The slaughter house (only one in the district), and it is in a thickly populated place, whilst it is kept wholesome it cannot be interfered with. The foregoing are only a few instances which occurred during the year, and will shew you the necessity of new Bye-Laws.

There is at present only one lodging house in the district. It has been visited, but it is old and in a dilapidated condition. There are other houses in the district which take in tramps, they are not registered and understand they have a license for a refreshment house.

Ten new dwelling-houses have been erected during the year and certificates granted, but still there is a want of workmen's cottages, and without enlarging the district I can see no suitable sites for them.

The dairies and cow-sheds have been visited, but there is a way for improvement in the cow-sheds, very few of them coming up to the standard; in a small and crowded town like yours cow-sheds would be far better in the unpopulated part of the district.

From the foregoing you will see that there are several sanitary matters that will require your attention during the coming year, and I hope they will receive at your hands the same attention and consideration as in the past.

Appended you will find the table of mortality and sickness, and also a form used by the County Council. I might say the latter body think nothing of our time, considering the various forms that are sent to be filled up, and I think M.O.H. ought to meet and confer over that and other matters since my appointment as Medical Officer of Health in 1880.

I give you the Birth and Death Rates since

1880.	Birth Rate	33.1	per 1,000	Death Rate	22. per 1,000
1881.	„	26.5	„	„	18.1 „
1882.	„	27.3	„	„	25.9 „
1883.	„	26.2	„	„	24.8 „
1884.	„	30.9	„	„	18.7 „
1885.	„	27.07	„	„	27.3 „
1886.	„	24.2	„	„	23.4 „
1887.	„	25.1	„	„	25.9 „
1888.	„	22.8	„	„	18.4 „
1889.	„	23.4	„	„	15.6 „
1890.	„	19.2	„	„	23.7 „
1891.	„	25.3	„	„	22.1 „
1892.	„	23.8	„	„	20.1 „
1893.	„	26.7	„	„	23.8 „
1894.	„	28.6	„	„	20.1 „
1895.	„	25.02	„	„	18.9 „

You will see that the Birth and Death Rates are about the average, and if you omit the Union Workhouse you will have a Birth rate 22.6 and a Death rate of 13.09. More than half the deaths were in persons over sixty-five years of age, whilst in children of tender age there were only six deaths, and from diseases of the Respiratory System there were twenty-nine fatal cases, and only one death from Zymotic diseases. The table of sickness has been very small, only eight notifiable cases for the whole year.

In conclusion I would say that I have used my best endeavours to carry out the sanitary work of the district to your satisfaction.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours obediently,

**WILLIAM MASON,**

Health Officer.

*E. CARLYON, Esq.,*

*St. Austell.*



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ST. AUSTELL,

JANUARY, 1896.

TO THE MEMBERS  
OF THE  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SAINT AUSTELL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It affords me much pleasure to present to you my Report for the past year, with a resume of the Sanitary work accomplished, and also the general condition of the several parts of your District.

The Zymotic diseases prevalent during the year were Scarlet Fever, Measles, Diphtheria, and Erysipelas.

Several cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in the commencement of the year throughout the Districts, and since August cases have been frequently reported. The three places where it chiefly occurred were Mevagissey, St. Blazey, and the Parish of St. Stephens. The two former places are thickly populated, and the sanitary arrangements are not altogether satisfactory. At the latter place the disease spread because of the affected children being allowed to attend school without being properly convalescent,—the examination being close at hand. A notable fact occurred at St. Blazey. The Board Schools were closed for three weeks, and at the end of that time only one case was reported for the last week; the Schools were again opened, and this disease has made a fresh start, and several cases have been reported this month. You will also remember how a case of Scarlet Fever at Creed was not reported to us in due course. Twice we visited the place. On the second occasion the child was taken for a drive, and actually into some of the shops in St. Austell at the most infectious stage of the disease, but happily, no ill effects arose therefrom. The parents pleaded ignorance. At St. Blazey there have been thirty-six cases, and one death. At Mevagissey there were fifteen cases, and one death. Whilst at St. Stephens, there were eighteen cases, and no fatality. Altogether, there were seventy-three cases, with only two deaths.

Measles have three times been imported into the District. First at Grampound, where it extended to Mevagissey. Afterwards it appeared at Fowey, and was probably imported from Polruan. Several cases occurred, one having proved fatal. Some time after, a case occurred at St. Blazey, but did not further extend. Later on, it was imported from Queens into St. Dennis, where it raged rapidly for some weeks, three cases having proved fatal. It extended into the St. Stephens District, and one case proved fatal. There were five deaths at Mevagissey : the number of cases was considerable—and not being notifiable, I cannot give any approximate number. Several cases occurred before I was aware of it.

DIPHTHERIA.—Five cases occurred in the Fowey District, one having proved fatal. In the Grampound District nine cases occurred, one proved fatal. At Mevagissey two cases occurred, none having proved fatal. Some of these cases were very mild. This is a marked contrast to the previous year (1894), when there were twenty-eight cases, with ten deaths. One case of Typhoid Fever had been reported to me at Kestle, St. Ewe. We could not find any sanitary defects to account for it. The other members of the family were suffering from Influenza at that period. A fatal case of Puerperal Fever has been reported at Fowey. The sanitary arrangements were satisfactory, but I believe the person afflicted was of a very weak and feeble constitution.

Twenty-one cases of Erysipelas were reported, fourteen of which occurred at St. Blazey, one case having proved fatal. Whilst for the year 1894, there were twenty-eight cases, with one death. The several defects have been reported to you, and your Authority has acted thereon.

From the foregoing statement, you will see that the time of your Inspector and myself has been fully occupied ; but there are several sanitary measures to which we have directed your attention. We called your attention to the condition of the Village of Polmassick, in St. Ewe Parish, where there was a deficiency of drinking water ; and where also the sanitary arrangements were not satisfactory : the closet accommodation being defective. This place has been much improved.

Six samples of Drinking Water were taken for analyses : four from wells in Fowey Town, three of which were condemned. An order was made to have the wells closed. One at St. Ewe Churchtown, which, in my opinion, was not satisfactory ; and one at Mevagissey. The new supply at the latter place was considered pure and wholesome.

We called your attention to the Drinking Water at Molinnis, near Bugle. This matter is still in abeyance. The inhabitants of Trelavour Downs and Hendra Lane, St. Dennis, complained that there was no proper drinking water. Your Authority has served notices on the Landlords.

The Water at Grampound has also been complained of. The attention of the Parish Council has been called to this. At Trelyon and St. Stephens, we met the owners of the properties. Nothing definite has been arranged as yet. At Trethosa and Treviscoe, in the same parish, during the summer there was a deficiency of drinking water.

Mevagissey old Pump is still in existence, and a new Well has been built, which, up to the present, has proved satisfactory. At Kestle, in the parish of St. Ewe, Mr. J. Tremayne has made a present of the Well to the Authority for the use of the Village ; the said Well is to be improved, and a pump fixed thereon.

Eight houses were reported as being unfit for occupation ; notices were served, and, after some difficulty, the houses were closed. Several houses were condemned as being unfit for habitation in their present condition. On notice being given, they were renovated. Six houses at St. Blazey were reported to us by the Parish Council—of five of those the back part was in a dilapidated condition, and unfit for occupation—the sixth was overcrowded.

There were eighteen cases of overcrowding dealt with by your Authority, most of them large families in small houses.

Your attention has been called to the state of the Closet and Urinals at the Boys' School, St. Blazey, which were in a very unsatisfactory condition. Also at Lower Green, where there was an open drain in a filthy condition.

The Drainage at Fowey has been extended. Several Closets have been erected in the district, but still there is need for a great many more.

Over eighty new houses were erected during the year, but there is still a lack of workmen's cottages in some places, notably at Mevagissey, St. Blazey, St. Stephens, and the higher part of St. Austell.

Several Closets in the Special Drainage District have been connected with the Main Drain, and the Drainage has been further extended. Your Authority has thought it prudent, in other parts of the Rural District, and, I think wisely, to erect Closets at places where notice has not been complied with—and I hope this will be a warning to others.

The Drainage at The Meadow, Mevagissey, has been improved. The Sanitary condition of Gorran Haven has been brought under your notice, and the same has been much improved. Porthpean beach has also been under your consideration. This is a private matter, but I hope some system of drainage may be adopted, so as to abate the nuisances existing there.

Gorran Churchyard has been reported to you as being overcrowded. If this matter is not attended to by the Parish Authorities, it will be the duty of your Council to interfere.

Charlestown Churchyard has also been complained of. This shall have attention during the present year.

I am pleased to say the scheme for the Fowey Drinking Water is now progressing, and that the work will be commenced forthwith.

Mevagissey Drainage will also be proceeded with, I hope, before long. This is most important. St. Blazey will have your attention, as the place at present is not in a satisfactory Sanitary condition; the slaughter houses, which are chiefly wooden structures, and pigstyes, have been constantly complained of, being situated in the midst of dwelling houses: at times they must be great nuisances. There are no Bye-laws to regulate these except at Fowey and Mevagissey. A great number of the Dairies and Cow-sheds have been visited; thirty-five have been registered, and others have been notified, but I cannot report much improvement in the buildings.

Appended you will find the Birth Rate and Death Rate for the past Sixteen Years :—

1880.	Birth Rate	33·9	Death Rate	21·7
1881.	„	32·9	„	18·7
1882.	„	31·8	„	15·9
1883.	„	31·8	„	18·2
1884.	„	33·6	„	19·6
1885.	„	32·6	„	18·4
1886.	„	33·8	„	19·6
1887.	„	29·7	„	19·5
1888.	„	31·9	„	17·2
1889.	„	36·6	„	17·6
1890.	„	31·6	„	18·8

1891.	Birth Rate	32·7	Death Rate	19·4
1892.	„	30·5	„	15·5
1893.	„	29·8	„	21·4
1894.	„	28·7	„	16·7
1895.	„	31·4	„	18·9

You will see that both the Birth and Death Rates are about the average, although there is an increased death rate upon the previous year in St. Austell, Fowey, and Mevagissey ; whilst Grampound shows the only decrease. The deaths from Zymotic diseases have been less : for 1895 the Zymotic death rate was ·84, whilst for 1894 it was 2·8. The increased mortality was chiefly in young children and old persons—the former was increased by 22, and the latter by 34—there being no less than one hundred and seventy-seven persons over sixty-five years of age.

I now give the Birth and Death Rate of the Districts :—

St. Austell	Birth Rate	31·2	Death Rate	19·006
Fowey	„	32·3	„	21·6
Grampound	„	30·7	„	17·1
Mevagissey	„	28·8	„	16·8

You will see that the highest Birth and Death Rates were in the Fowey District, and Mevagissey had the lowest ; whilst in 1894 the Birth and Death Rates were as follows :—

St. Austell	Birth Rate	30·3	Death Rate	16·2
Fowey	„	29·4	„	17·1
Grampound	„	26·7	„	18·6
Mevagissey	„	26·2	„	14·9

In my opinion it is important that one Sanitary Inspector should be responsible to me, as your Medical Officer, and to you as an Authority, for the working of the several Districts.

You are aware that the Districts are thickly populated, and require close and constant supervision. Therefore, it is essentially necessary that the Inspector should reside within a convenient distance from me.

Gentlemen, in conclusion, I have to thank you for the kind and considerate manner in which you have assisted me in carrying out my duties, which have been of a very onerous and important character; and it shall be my aim in the future, as in the past, to do my duty, in the several parts of this large District, to your satisfaction.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM MASON,

M.O.H.

John Stephens, Esq., St. Austell.



